

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES)

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS' VISIT TO ZAMBIA

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN READ AND APPROVED BY CODEL DIGGS.

SUMMARY: THE HIGHLIGHT OF CODEL DIGGS' VISIT TO LUSAKA (NOV 19-23) WAS HIS LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PRES KAUNDA. THE TWO MEN SHARED COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEM. CODEL ASO MET WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, VISITED THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE, MET WITH REPS OF ZANU AND SWAPO AND ATTENDED A DINNER AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WITH ZAMBIAN GUESTS. CHAIRMAN DIGGS' STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON HIS ARRIVAL THAT THE US SHOULD MOVE TO RECOGNIZE ANGOLA RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN DIGGS WAS MET BY THE PRESS ON HIS ARRIVAL. HIS COMMENT THAT THE US SHOULD RECOGNIZE ANGOLA WAS PICKED UP BY THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO AND GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY. PRESS ALSO FOCUSSED ON CHAIRMAN DIGGS' STATEMENT THAT THE ROLE OF CUBANS IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA WAS TOO OFTER OVERLOOKED.

2. CODEL VISITED THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE WHERE DIRECTOR GEINGOB AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOMANI CONDUCTED THEM ON A TOUR AND DISCUSSED THE INSTITUTE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROBLEMS. THEY DESCRIBED THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INSTITUTE UNDER ITS GOVERNING SENATORIAL BODY, ITS OPENING ON AUGUST 25, AND THE PROGRESS THAT WAS BEING
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MADE WITH THE 100 STUDENTS WHO WERE NOW THERE. GEINGOB NOTED THAT

THE MAIN SOURCE OF FINANCIAL HELP WAS UNDP (HALF A MILLION), THE UNITED STATES (\$250,000), AND SWEDEN AND THE FRG (\$100,000 EACH). IN RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN DIGGS' QUESTION ABOUT HELP FROM THE OPEC COUNTRIES, GEINGOB SAID KUWAIT HAD GIVEN \$1,000. THE DIRECTOR EXPLAINED THE CURRICULUM NOTING THAT MANY OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS WERE ENGAGED IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN STATE. DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOMANI IS HELPING WITH LEGAL QUESTIONS LIKE WALVIS BAY AND AN EVENTUAL CONSTITUTION FOR NAMIBIA. CHAIRMAN DIGGS QUESTIONED THE RATIONALE OF PERMITTING A 5-DAY CLASS WEEK IN THE FACE OF THE URGENT NEED FOR TRAINED NAMIBIANS. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED TO THE EMBASSY THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDLY DIRECTION OF THE INSTITUTE THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR, WHO IS US EDUCATED WITH A US WIFE, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WHO IS THE BROTHER OF THE TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US AND APPARENTLY WELL DISPOSED.

3. CODEL MET WITH MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND POWER MAPOMA, WHO IS ACTING FONMIN AND WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED LUANDA WITH ZAMBIAN DELEGATION TO ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS NOV 11. MAPOMA WARMLY WELCOMED CODEL AS REPRESENTING DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF AMERICANS WHOSE REPUTATION WAS RESPECTED BY ALL AFRICANS. HE DESCRIBED ZAMBIAN TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, EXPLAINING THAT PRIMARY RELIANCE WAS ON TANZAM HIGHWAY AND TAZARA RAILROAD, WITH SUPPLEMENTARY TRADE GOING THROUGH BEIRA AND NACALA IN MOZAMBIQUE. MAPOMA DESCRIBED ZAMBIA'S HOPES FOR REOPENING OF BENGUELA RAILROAD AT LEAST IN ORDER TO RECOVER SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES OF RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK (770 WAGONS) AND LOCOMOTIVES (6), COPPER IN THE PROCESS OF BEING EXPORTED, AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF PURCHASES DELIVERED TO LOBITO BEFORE THE CONFLICT. THIS MATERIAL HAD NOW GOTTEN AS FAR AS LUSO AND, IT WAS HOPED, WOULD CONTINUE ON TO ZAMBIA BEFORE TOO LONG.

4. CODEL HAD CORDIAL MEETING AND LUNCH WITH PRES KAUNDA WHO OUTLINED HIS THOUGHTS ON CURRENT RHODESIAN SITUATION. HIS HOPES, HE SAID, WERE BASED ON THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 11 YEARS SMITH HAD AGREED TO MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS. THE AFRICANS WERE STILL SUSPICIOUS, HOWEVER, SINCE HE HAD RECOVERED FROM SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATIONS BEFORE. THE NEW ELEMENT WAS THE US INVOLVEMENT. IF THE TALKS FAILED, ZAMBIA HAD AN OBLIGATION TO THE OAU TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SINCE IT DOES
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NOT PRODUCE ITS OWN WEAPONS, IT WOULD HAVE TO GET THEM FROM SOMEWHERE. THE WEST WOULD REFUSE, LEAVING THEM NO ALTERNATIVE BUT PEKING, MOSCOW AND THEIR ALLIES. HE HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE SUPPLIED FOR SOME ALTRUISTIC PURPOSE RECOGNIZING THAT IT SUITED THESE COUNTRIES' INTERESTS. KAUNDA SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN SAM NUJOMA FOR THREE MONTHS. IF THE CONDITIONS NUJOMA SET DOWN COULD BE MET, AND HE BELIEVED THEY COULD BE, THEN THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR A SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA. THE PRES DWELT AT LENGTH

ON THE ECONOMIC LOSSES SUFFERED BY ZAMBIA DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS: FIRST FOLLOWING THE BREAKUP OF THE FEDERATION WHEN IT LOST RAILROAD ROLLING STOCK, DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, HEALTH SERVICES AND OTHER THINGS TO RHODESIA; THEN UDI; AND MOST RECENTLY THE ANGOLA SITUATION. ZAMBIA HAS RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE WEST IN COMPENSATION FOR THESE LOSSES. IT HAS SENT DELEGATIONS AROUND THE WORLD WHICH WERE RECEIVED AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVELS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOVIET UNION. IN CONTRAST, CHOU EN LAI HIMSELF RECEIVED THE DELEGATION FOR THREE HOURS IN CHINA AND AGREED TO AN IMMEDIATE \$10 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE. THE WEST, EXCEPT FOR SCANDINAVIA, WAS QUIET. KAUNDA SAW US ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AS A SPILLOVER FROM OUR CONCERN WITH COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. WHILE WELCOMING US ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES, HE NOTED THE US STILL GAVE MORE TO TANZANIA THAN ZAMBIA. ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THE PRES WAS FIRM IN INSISTING THAT AN EXACT DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED BY THE BRITISH. IF THEY WERE TO ANNOUNCE THAT MARCH 1, 1978 WOULD BE THE INDEPENDENCE DATE, IT WOULD BECOME INCUMBENT ON ALL TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO MEET THIS DEADLINE AND THE NATIONALISTS WOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT NO TRICKERY WAS POSSIBLE. IN ANSWER TO CHAIRMAN DIGGS' QUESTION ON ZAMBIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS US-ANGOLAN RELATIONS, KAUNDA UNDERLINED HIS BELIEF THAT A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WAS NECESSARY FOR ANGOLA'S OWN GOOD BUT SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE NETO OF THIS. NEVERTHELESS HE BELIEVED IT WOULD HELP TO EASE PROBLEMS IF THE US WOULD NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AS ZAMBIA HAS DONE. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD ALSO ASSIST ANGOLA WHERE IT NEEDED IT. LOW

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